The Lord Provost having signified on Friday the 1st of June, that some Members of the Town-Council were desirous of having Testimonials in favour of Dr Home, the following, of the highest order, were immediately procured. All the writers of these Testimonials are well known: They have long been acquainted with Dr Home: And they are most competent judges of the Qualifications necessary to perform the duties of the vacant Chair.

June 4. 1821.

LETTER from The Very Reverend GEORGE BAIRD to the LORD PROVOST of Edinburgh.

MY LORD, *Ramsay-Lodge, June* 4. 1821.

I most willingly comply with your Lordship's desire to receive from me a Testimonial in respect to the character and merits of Dr HOME, as a Candidate for the vacant Chair of the Practice of Physic. Permit me, therefore, to state the impressions which his conduct, as a member of our Academical Body, and his success as a Professor of Materia Medica, have made on me.

I entertain, then, my Lord, the deepest and most conscientious conviction, that Dr HOME is not only *adequately*, but that he is *eminently* qualified to fill the vacant Chair, with high satisfaction and benefit to the Students, and consequently with signal advantage to the prosperity and honour of the Medical School.

He was appointed a Professor twenty-three years ago; and I remember well the flattering attestations of respectable talents, acquirements, and habits, which he then received. And it is my official duty to declare that, during the whole period of his incumbency, I have uniformly had complete reason to be perfectly satisfied with his conciliatory manners in the private intercourse of life, and with his judicious and upright principles in the public privileges of the Senatus, as well as with his ardent zeal for both the particular interests of his Class and the general interests of the University.

His travels in Germany, France and Italy, during four years of preparatory Medical Study, gave him ample opportunity of adding all the

stores of Continental discovery and skill to the professional knowledge he had previously acquired at home. He entered, therefore, on the duties of the Chair of Materia Medica with distinguished advantages; and every succeeding Session has been discovering the fruits of these, when conjoined with his unwearied assiduity and zeal. The result has been the progressively increasing popularity of his Prelections in both the College and the Royal Infirmary; and hence, in his branch, the sustained and growing attractions of the University, as a Seminary of Medical education.

But there is one particular circumstance relative to Dr HOME, which it gave me the highest pleasure to observe when it took place, and which it seems incumbent on me to bring before your Lordship and the Honourable Patrons. It was not the practice formerly for the Professor of Materia Medica to give, besides his Public Lectures, *hours of Private Examinations* for the Students. Dr HOME began the practice, and has now for several years continued it; and his pupils have often and gratefully reported to me that they were largely benefited by this gratuitous labour of their able and excellent Professor.

Having made this general statement, I beg leave, my Lord, to add, that your Lordship, and the Honourable Patrons, will be aware, that, in any thing I have said, I have not been presuming to offer my opinion as to the merits of Dr Home, in so far as these are strictly *medical.* I am entirely incompetent to judge on that subject; at the same time, it would be doing him injustice, if I did not affirm, that, by professional persons the best qualified to estimate them, I have uniformly heard him described as of the highest order.

Allow me, my Lord, just further to say that, while I give this Testimonial in favour of Dr HOME, I know that there are other Professors who have done their duties within the walls of the College under my inspection, and who are, as well as Dr Home, Candidates for the vacant Chair in question; and of them, had I been called on to speak, I am bound in honour to assure your Lordship, that I would have spoken in unqualified terms of personal esteem and respect, and of entire official approbation of their services in their respective departments, and during

the respective periods of their Academical appointments. Nor can I avoid subjoining, that, associated as the success and fame of the Teaching Chairs must ever be in the mind of the Patrons, with their sense of duty and their inmost wishes, it cannot but afford them pride and pleasure to find that so many Professors have been placed in their College, who are so conspicuously justifying, by their talents and fidelity, the past preference they have received, and are so richly meriting every future encouragement and promotion it may be possible to bestow on them.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's

Most obedient and most faithful Servant,

GEORGE BAIRD.

To the Right Hon. John Manderston, Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh, &c. &c.

To tho Right Honourable the LORD PROVOST of EDINBURGH.

MY LORD, *Edinburgh, June* 2. 1821.

AS your Lordship has communicated your particular desire, that we, Professors of Medicine in the University, should express our opinion of the Qualifications of Dr HOME to fill the Chair of the Practice of Physic, we have great pleasure in complying with this request.

We beg leave to premise that, as the number of our own Students depends on the prosperity of the University, there are no individuals so deeply interested as we are, in the selection of a fit person to fill this Chair so important to the Medical School.

We have no hesitation in stating, That the opportunities, which Dr HOME has had of acquiring an accurate knowledge of the Practice of Physic, have been of the most extensive and advantageous kind, and of these he has availed himself to the utmost.—That the teaching of Materia Medica and Clinical Medicine, in which Dr HOME has been so long engaged, necessarily requires a correct and minute acquaintance with the Practical part of the Science, which we know Dr HOME to possess in a very eminent degree.—And that we consider the gradual and very great increase in the number of Students of Materia Medica, since he became Professor, as the most decided and satisfactory proof of his ability and popularity as a teacher.

We may be permitted to add our thorough conviction that the labours of Dr HOME have had their full share in maintaining the fame of the Medical School; and we entertain no doubt that they will continue to preserve it undiminished, should your Lordship and the other Patrons confer upon him the honourable situation of Professor of the Practice of Physic, to which he aspires.

We have the honour to be,

MY LORD,

Your Lordship's most obedient servants,

ANDREW DUNCAN SEN. *Prof. Inst. Med.*
THOS. CHAS. HOPE, *Prof. of Chemistry.*
ALEXR. MONRO, *Prof. Anat. & Surg.*
JAS. HAMILTON, *Prof. of Midwifery.*
ROBT. GRAHAM, *Prof. of Botany.*

LETTER of Mr RUSSELL, Professor of Clinical Surgery, to the Right Honourable the LORD PROVOST of the CITY of EDINBURGH.

MY LORD,

In a conversation which I had this morning with Dr HOPE, he informed me of an application from your Lordship to obtain the opinion of the Professors respecting the Qualification of Dr HOME to fill the Chair of Practical Medicine in the University, when I stated the circumstance which precludes me from taking an active share in the business. I have thought seriously on the subject since Dr HOPE and I parted: and, after the most mature deliberation, I do not feel myself at liberty to subscribe any testimonial, in consequence of having declared to one of the Candidates my determined resolution to decline giving my name to the Public on the present occasion. The appearance of a letter from me to Lord LAUDERDALE, in favour of Dr THOMSON's capacity to teach Surgery, is no violation of this declaration, since that letter was written many years ago, for a very different purpose, and does not bear directly upon the point now at issue. It was printed without my knowledge. I did not even know that the letter was in existence, till I saw it in print. Under these circumstances, it would be unjust to suspect me of an indirect attempt to promote the success of one of the Candidates by publishing a private letter, after it is known that the letter in question was not in my possession, and that my consent to the publication of it never was asked.

I should be truly sorry to do any thing, which could be construed to the disadvantage of Dr HOME, who is most deservedly respected by the Public, both on account of the correctness of his conduct in private life, and of his exertions in the University.

I have the honour to remain,

MY LORD,

With much respect,

Your most obedient Servant,

JAMES RUSSELL.

EDINBURGH, 1st *June* 1821.

*P. S.** It is my intention, by the above Letter, to prevent my name from being used in any manner of way in the present competition for the vacant Chair of Practical Medicine.

* This Postscript was not inserted in the first copies, because it was not received till after their circulation.

LETTER from Dr SPENS, formerly President of the Royal College of Physicians, to the Right Honourable the LORD PROVOST of Edinburgh.

MY LORD, *Edinburgh, 1st June* 1821.

I would not have thought of troubling your Lordship with any opinion of mine, on the important question relative to the filling up the Chair in this University at present vacant, had I not been informed that you were desirous of receiving Testimonials regarding Dr HOME. There can be no doubt, that, if he had adopted the plan of procuring Testimonials, he could easily have brought forward very many in his favour, and of much more weight than mine. But I beg leave to say, that the statements which he has himself made of his qualifications, appears to me very ample and sufficient; and that, from my long and intimate knowledge of Dr Home, I consider him uncommonly well qualified for the situation to which he now aspires.

I have the honour to be,

MY LORD,

YOUR LORDSHIP'S

Most obedient and humble Servant,

THO. SPENS.

To the Right Hon. the Lord Provost of Edinburgh.

LETTER from Dr BUCHAN, President of the Royal College of Physicians, to the Right Honourable the LORD PROVOST of Edinburgh.

MY LORD, 9. *Piccardy Place, 2d June* 1821.

In compliance with the request of Dr HOME, I have the honour to transmit a Testimonial, to which, I conceive, his long, faithful, and meritorious services, as a Professor, justly entitle him.

I have the honour to be,

MY LORD,

Your LORDSHIP'S

Most obedient and humble Servant,

JAMES BUCHAN.

To the Right. Hon. the Lord Provost.

Edinburgh, 2d June 1821.

From the ability and success with which Dr HOME has for so many years taught Materia Medica and Clinical Medicine in this University, as well as from the indefatigable attention and zeal which he has manifested in the discharge of all his professional duties, I have no doubt, if he shall obtain the situation which he solicits, that he will fill the Chair with credit to himself, and that he will contribute to support the high reputation which the Medical School in this place has so deservedly acquired.

(Signed) JAMES BUCHAN.

To the Right Hon. the Lord Provost, &c.

LETTER from Dr FARQUHARSON, formerly President of the Royal College of Surgeons, to the Right Honourable the LORD PROVOST.

MY LORD,

For your information, and that of the Magistrates and Town-Council of Edinburgh, I am truly happy to have an opportunity of expressing, in as strong terms as words can convey, the high opinion I entertain of Dr HOME's qualifications to fill the Chair of the Practice of Medicine, vacant by the death of my much lamented friend Dr GREGORY. From thirty years' professional knowledge of Dr HOME, I am fully convinced of his ability to fill that very important situation, with honour to himself and advantage to the University. During our acquaintance, he has been the constant medical attendant on my family, and to his great skill and attention I owe a wonderful recovery from a most dangerous illness. For more than twenty years he has attended the Royal Infirmary, and given Clinical Lectures with the greatest success. During several years he has had charge of the Queensberry Fever Hospital. The ample opportunities which that appointment has afforded him, and the great success which has attended his unwearied exertions, are already well known to the Public. His admirable Lectures on Materia Medica, which are intimately connected with the Practice of Physic, are justly esteemed among the most valuable in the University.

I have the honour to be,

MY LORD,

YOUR LORDSHIP'S

Very obedient Servant,

(Signed) WM. FARQUHARON.

EDINBURGH,
June 1. 1821.

LETTER from Mr BRYCE, formerly President of the Royal College of Surgeons, to the Right Honourable the Lord PROVOST of Edinburgh.

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

On the occasion of the present honourable contest for the Chair of the Practice of Physic, vacant by the lamented death of the late Dr GREGORY, I trust your Lordship, and the other Gentlemen Patrons of the University, will not deem me too officious in presuming shortly to state to you my knowledge of the ability of my friend Dr HOME, to fill that important situation.

My opinion of Dr HOME, as a man of general science, of a good moral character, and as a most worthy member of society, is very high indeed. And on those most important points, I am quite certain that all those who have the happiness of Dr HOME's acquaintance, will most cordially agree with me.

With regard to Dr HOME's abilities to perform the office of an Instructor of Youth, this must certainly be best judged of from the success which has already attended his labours in that capacity. Dr HOME has taught the class of Materia Medica in this University for at least twenty years, and during that period the yearly increasing number of his pupils has been so great, as to render his Class at present five times more numerous than it was when he first received his appointment from your hands; and there is every reason to conclude, that this extraordinary increase in the number of Dr HOME's pupils is entirely owing to the very great estimation in which his Lectures have been held by his hearers, and who, I can assure your Lordship, are no mean judges of their merits. Besides, the very intimate connection which there is between the Chair which Dr HOME has thus filled so long and so beneficially to all concerned, and that of the Practice of Physic, and the reputation he has acquired as a good practical physician, by the ability with which he has for many years discharged the various duties of a Clinical Professor, viz. Attending, prescribing for, and giving Lectures to the Students on, the cases of the Patients admitted into the Clinical Wards of the Royal Infirmary,—and of late years by his judicious practice as Physician to that Branch of the Royal Infirmary appropriated for Fevers, &c. established

at Queensberry House,—all point him out as a person in my opinion eminently qualified to be named as successor to Dr GREGORY.

Requesting your forgiveness for thus obtruding my opinion on the Honourable Patrons of the University,

I have the honour to be,

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

Your most obedient and very humble servant,

(Signed) JAMES BRYCE,

Right Honourable the Lord Provost, Magistrates and Town-Council of Edinburgh.

LETTER from Mr GILLESPIE, formerly President of the Royal College of Surgeons, to Dr HOME.

MY DEAR SIR, *York Place, 2d June* 1821.

I was this morning favoured with your note of yesterday, and, although I cannot flatter myself that any testimony of mine can have much weight with the Patrons of the University, I gladly seize the opportunity it gives me of expressing how much I feel interested in your success.

Among the numerous Candidates for the Professorial Chair of the Practice of Medicine, I can number many personal friends, for whose professional talents, and scientific acquirements, I have the highest respect.

With you, however, I have had the happiness to enjoy an intimacy of nearly twenty years, and during that period, we have had much professional intercourse.

On those occasions, ample opportunity has been afforded me, of witnessing your prompt and energetic practice, of admiring the arious and accurate information you possessed on all professional and scientific subjects, and your persevering industry in acquiring general knowledge.

I may likewise add, that the Chair which you have now thhonour to fill, and which is so nearly allied to the Practice of Physic,—yor anxious

and laborious duties as Clinical Practitioner and Professor,—your long, generous, and humane exertions for the Poor attending at the Royal Dispensary,—and the opportunities you have had of seeing and treating successfully a very frequent and dangerous disease at the Queensberry Fever Hospital, must have afforded you the best means of qualifying yourself for the Chair which you solicit, the duties of which I am confident you will discharge with equal honour to yourself and the University.

Accept again my best wishes for your success, and believe me, with much esteem,

Yours sincerely,

A. GILLESPIE.

Dr Home, &c. &c.

LETTER from the MANAGERS of the ROYAL INFIRMARY to the Right Honourable the Lord PROVOST.

MY LORD,

Your Lordship having expressed your desire, that the Managers of the Royal Infirmary should communicate to you their opinion of the Professional skill and abilities of Dr HOME during his attendance in the Hospital under our charge, we beg leave to state, that since Dr HOME became a Professor twenty-three years ago, he has acted as one of the Clinical Physicians in the Royal Infirmary, and has discharged with much zeal and ability the duties of Eighteen Clinical Courses. So high was our opinion of his merits, that upon Dr HAMILTON *senior* resigning the charge of the Queensberry Fever Hospital, we unanimously appointed Dr HOME one of the Physicians of that establishment. Dr HOME has ever since officiated as Physician in that Hospital, and has, by his professional skill, greatly contributed to the acknowledged success of the Institution.

We have the honour to be,

Your LORDSHIP'S

Most obedient servants,

C. HOPE.
J. CLERK RATTRAY.
GILBT. INNES.
THOMAS DAVIDSON.
GEO. WOOD.
ALEX. MONRO.
JAMES BUCHAN.
HENRY JARDINE.
THOS. CHAS. HOPE.

ROYAL INFIRMARY,
June 4. 1821.

[illegible] from the MANAGERS of the ROYAL INFIRMARY to the Right Honourable the Lord PROVOST.

MY LORD,

Your Lordship having expressed your desire, that the Managers of the Royal Infirmary should communicate to you their opinion of the Professional skill and abilities of Dr HOME during his attendance in the Hospital under our charge, we beg leave to state, that since Dr HOME became a Professor twenty-three years ago, he has acted as one of the Clinical Physicians in the Royal Infirmary, and has discharged with [illegible] and ability the duties of Eighteen Clinical Courses. So high was our opinion of his merits, that upon Dr HAMILTON [illegible] resigning the charge of the Queensberry Fever Hospital, we unanimously appointed Dr HOME one of the Physicians of that establishment. Dr HOME has now since officiated as Physician in that Hospital, and has by his professional skill, greatly contributed to the acknowledged success of the Institution.

We have the honour to be,

Your LORDSHIP,

Most obedient servants,

C. HOPE.
J. CLERK RE[illegible]
GILB[illegible] INNES.
THOMAS D[illegible]
GEO. WOOD.
ALEX. MONRO.
JAMES BUCHAN.
HENRY JARDINE.
THOS CHAS. HOPE.

ROYAL INFIRMARY,
[illegible] 1821.